

Saugerties, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Malden-West Camp Fire District has been awarded a \$74,813 federal grant to purchase new firefighting equipment, including new turnout gear, as well as pagers and radio equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"These federal funds will allow the Malden-West Camp Fire District to purchase much-needed equipment that will enable its firefighters to continue providing the highest level of service to the community," Hinchey said. "The new turnout gear will ensure that these brave men and women are protected as they fight fires. The new pagers and radio equipment will assist them in promptly responding to emergencies. Additionally, this federal grant spares local taxpayers the cost of this much-needed equipment."

The funds allocated to the Malden-West Camp Fire Department will be used to purchase new turnout gear, which may include items such as flame retardant boots, trousers, and jackets. These funds will also be used to purchase new radios and pagers, which will enable the volunteer members of the Malden-West Camp Fire District to effectively respond to fire emergencies in a coordinated fashion.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$17.7 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

Hinchey is the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.